

HISTORY OF IEBER CITY

President Brigham Young told the people to branch out from Salt Lake valley and take up all available land that could be cultivated. He asked that not more than 5 men go in one group; with capable men as leaders to fight the Indians.

In April of 1859 a small company of ten men, three wagons drawn by oxen left Provo valley. They were Thomas Eschard, John Jordan, John Crook, C.M. Carroll, John Carlile, William Giles, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile and a man by the name of Carpenter.

It took them three days to reach the open valley, where there was two men ploughing (to their surprise) they were James Davis and Robert Broadhead. They had been ploughing a day or two, also William Cummings and R. Parker had been ploughing at Center Creek.

This Provo Company went on up through the valley, where there was a spring. Here they made camp because of it and the choice land around it was covered with waving grass.

Lower down in the valley land was covered with large sage brush which was difficult to clear off, so they made preparations to stay longer where they were.

This company was made up of mostly English people so it was called London. The land they cultivated was then called the big field, now the North field. It was surveyed into twenty acre plots. The men went to work ploughing and putting in their crops. They had faith that they would reap a harvest although the report was that there were heavy frosts every month of the year.

After their crops were in a townsite was surveyed two miles south of London, in approximately the center of the valley. They then began to build their log cabins in the shape of a fort as a protection from the Indians. It was in the northwest corner of the townsite. It started from John R. Moulton's home west to Walter Young's, north two blocks and west to Jesse Witts. The houses were built close together with openings here and there so cattle could be taken out, but were kept most of the time inside of the fort.

These houses were very practical. They were built of cotton wood logs cut green from the river bottom. They were all kept busy preparing for the long winter ahead.

*Hugh & Doris Crook
Webster gave this
copy to Dr RRG Green
1-9-92*

Their wheat was frosted a little but could be used for flour. It had to be taken to Provo to be ground into flour. Much of the wheat was ground in small coffee mills at home, while some was bailed as such with milk. Most of the families had a cow or two. The only hay they had was wild hay that had been cut by a scythe. This only grew in the swampy places and was very difficult to cut. Many of the men took their families and went back to Provo to spend the winter where hay was more plentiful.

Ploughing was done in Snake Creek in 1859 and some crops raised. The women as well as the men harvested the crops. All the wheat was cut with a scythe. The women usually made it into bundles and tied it with grass.

It was a long and dreary winter, with early snow and very deep. There was no communication from the outside for four months. Church was held regularly and also dances.

In March 1869 there was no sign of winter letting up. They held a Prayer meeting at the home of John Lee and prayed earnestly that the Lord would come to their aid, to cause the snow to melt and grass to grow for their starving cattle and sheep. The People all testify that before the meeting closed the snow had started to melt and was dripping from the eaves. It wasn't long before the snow was all gone. They all thanked the Lord for his blessing.

In the spring of 1869 a large number of people came to make their homes here William Wall was appointed as presiding Elder with John M. Murdock and James Laird as counselors. There were about two hundred people in Heber at that time. They had all heard of the crops, lots of wood and plenty of water to irrigate their crops.

Near July the twenty fourth a meeting was held to decide on a celebration. It was suggested that they build a bowery. John M. Murdock asked that a meeting house be built that would serve all purposes. It was heartily endorsed and started.

It was built 20 ft. by 40 ft. and built of logs. A large chimney in each end for a fireplace. Logs were burned for fuel, they were cut three to four feet long. This church served the purposes for five years. The Deacons job was to keep the church house in wood for all meetings and parties. It kept them busy chopping logs and hauling them.

They decided to call this valley Heber in honor of Heber C. Kimball first counselor to President Brigham Young.

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Wheat was planted in the North field, but was shrunken by early frosts. The first threshing machine was owned by Smith and Bullock. It threshed slowly using oxen power but it had to go through a fanning mill after to separate the grain from the chaff. This was turned by hand. It was such a slow process that all the grain did not get threshed before winter. A fence was built around to keep the oxen from the grain.

Each man was to build a rod of fence for each acre owned. In this way a good fence was built around all the fields. People who could not take their wheat to Provo to be made into flour had to still use coffee mills.

In 1861 President Brigham Young sent Joseph S. Murdock to preside as first Bishop. That year more people came to settle here. People now felt free to build their houses outside the fort. The first homes were built in the northend of town and as the town grew the southern part was built up.

In the year 1861 Ephriam Smith and William Reynolds erected a chopper run by horse power to chop up the wheat. This was an improvement on the coffee mills.

The first bridge was built over Provo River in 1861 six miles north of Heber on the way to Salt Lake City. That year a road was built to Salt Lake City. That year a road was built through Provo Canyon.

J.M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd and took care of the sheep, in the summer he herded on the hills near Heber and in the winter took them south where there was good feed. This meant very much to the sheep men for there was very little hay in the winter, and they needed wool to spin into yarn and weave into clothing. This was done with the spinning wheel and the hand loom. All the spinning and weaving was done by the women in their homes. Some of the wool was mixed with cotton, when woven was called jeans. Most every one wore jeans as it was easier to make than all wool. They colored their cloth with tag Alder wood, rabbit bush and indigo. Large plaids were very popular being easy to fix. The whole family would enjoy clothing made out of the same piece of plain material. William Aird was the first weaver in Heber.

Shoes were very difficult to get so many used buck skin moccasins, also used some for pants. In 1872 a tannery was started and shoes were made here.

The early log houses had dirt roofs and dirt floors. A very few pots and pans and bake skillets were found as the household utensils. Home made furniture was all that could be obtained. Stools were made by splitting a wide stick of wood making it smooth with an axe, then boring holes to put the legs in. Tables and beds were made in the same way. Later William Bell a very efficient carpenter came and taught the people how to make nice furniture. Besides the individual work at home roads, canals, bridges etc had to be made so every one was kept busy.

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The winter of 1861-62 was an extremely long one. The snow was so deep that men went to Salt Lake to April Conference on snow shoes over four feet of snow. The spring ploughing could not be done until May 4.

Wasatch was made a county January 1863. Theaters and dances were the only means of enjoyment besides rag bees and corn husking parties. John Crook, James Duke and C. N. Carroll were prominent members of the theatrical company.

President Brigham Young called some men from Heber on missions, which was to take a wagon, oxen etc. and go for emigrants. This usually took four months. People kept coming here to make their homes, making a representation from several nations. They branched out into center, Daniel, Lake Creek, and Midway. In the year 1863 people could get lumber so floors could be put in their houses. Dave Stevenson made shingles by hand. People were glad to replace them for dirt roofs.

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In 1866 the Black Hawk War broke out. The people from Snake Creek and Charleston moved together for protection from the Indians, it was then called Midway. The people in Heber were all advised to move closer to the old fort for protection which they did.

President Brigham Young sent 24 men under Captain W. M. Wall with three wagons of supplies and 100 head of beef out to the Uintah Reservation Indians as a peace offering. They had been stealing the cattle and causing much misery. Seventy white people were killed during this war in Utah. Many of our men fought and helped subdue the Indians.

When Johnson's army left Utah they sold their heavy army wagons, mules, and utensils very cheap, and for years nearly every one here had a government wagon. In 1864 lots of men used horse and mule teams.

All the women made their soft soap to wash with. Their lye was made by chopping a bowl in a log, pour wood ashes and water in. A crack was made by which this moisture seeped through, and was lye. Grease added to lye and cooked made a soft or hard soap as desired.

Nest everyone had candle molds and made their own candles. They were made of mutton tallow with the wicking drawn through the center. For good lights a board came from the ceiling with cross boards at the end with a fixture for four or six candles.

About this time people began to send back to the states for stoves. They brought coal from coalville, a distance of 40 miles.

The roads were very poor. The people were glad to do away with crude fire places. A few freight wagons and a very few carriages were used in Utah at this time.

In 1863-64 John Witt and James Hamilton built red sandstone houses. The stone was quarried from the hills of Heber. The lower ward was to build a church across the road south of Jesse Witt's home, the upper ward where the first ward church house now stands. They were used both as church and school houses. The upper one was finished first. President Young was invited to the dedication. He came and dedicated the building. The crowd was so large that they had to build a bowery on the east side of the building. They held wonderful meetings and had extremely large crowds to all of the dedicatorial services.

Men were hauling tan bark fire wood and stone flags to Salt Lake to sell. Many Salt Lake homes were built of stone from here. They traded wood, soap, eggs, stone, cheese and butter for groceries, furniture and cloth.

In 1865 Moses Cluff had a cording machine built, which was indeed an improvement to that of doing it by hand. It was wool on a stick ready to use by the spinning wheel.

In 1867 President Young called for men to haul granite rock from little cotton wood canyon for the Temple. Four men drove wagons and oxen from Heber. They were Joseph Moulton, Orson Hicken, William Lindsay, Harmon Cummings, and Richard Jones Sr. was in charge of the company. It took two days to haul rock from the quarry to the Temple grounds.

There had been several grist mills fixed up for use but they were up Snake and Center Creek. The Heber City grist mill was built 1865. Robert T. Burton and Brigham Young Jr. were the builders, Charles H. Wilkin was the first miller.

In Dec. 1867 President Brigham Young ordained Abraham Hatch as Bishop and sent him to preside over the ward. The weather was extremely bad so William Averett, Orson Hicken, and Robert Lindsay were sent to help them into the valley.

That year Hatch lived in a stone house called the Mc Affee Castle. He chose Thomas H. Giles and Henry S. Alexander for his counselors. In the spring he built his large stone house on main street, where the Bonneville Lumber now stands. He used one room for a store. Before this Mark Jeffs had kept a small stock of goods, but all but Jeffs of the early small stores had gone out of business. There had been Miller, and Carter, J. W. Witt, Jacob Harris, Alonzo Hyde each with a small stock. Jeffs and Hatch were competitors until the death of Hatch. Shortly after he came here he was made President of the Stake with the same counselors.

In 1868 the last call was made for men to go north to the Platte and Laramie City for emigrants. The Union Pacific R.R. was being built into Utah. Orson Hicken, William Lindsay,

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W. Carroll and B.A. Morris were sent from Heber, three men from Midway and one from Charleston was sent. It took four months to make the trip.

In 1868 the grasshoppers ate nearly all the crops, very little of any kind of crops were harvested. The Union Pacific R.R. coming to Ogden from the east and the Central Pacific from the west gave work for the men so that solved the problem of a shortage of food.

A prize was to be given to the Railroad company that reached Ogden first. The U. P. leased a contract to President Young and he subleased it. Many men from Heber were given work. They worked in Echo Canyon one man and team received \$10 a day. Hay was bailed in Heber and hauled to Echo, then it was sold from \$80 to \$100 a ton. That year flour had to be bought and brought into Heber on account of the grasshoppers. The U.P. R.R. reached Ogden first and received the prize.

In 1873 a social hall was built on the west side of main Street. It was 60 ft. long and 35 ft. wide with a gallery in the east end with raised stage in the west end. It had class rooms below the main floor and was very convenient for theaters, church and dances.

The Wasatch Stake was organized July 15, 1877 by John Taylor and others. Abram Hatch was resident with Thomas H. Giles and Henry S. Alexander as counselors and Charles Shelton as clerk. The Bishop of east ward was Thomas Rasband with John Muir and Harmon Cummings as counselors. Bishop of west ward was William Forman with John Crook and George T. Giles as counselors.

New style threshing machines were brought into the valley as early as 1870. Isaac Baum, John Lee, and Robert Broadhead were among the owners. This made it possible to have their grain threshed as soon as it was harvested and also separated the grain from the chaff.

In 1864 a few mowing and reaping machines were bought by the Heber people. The reapers were not self binding. A man sat on the machine and pushed bundles off. Five were able to cut seven or eight acres a day. A hay-rake was also brought into Heber. All of these new devices helped and made life more desirable.

Lamps, stoves, sewing machines and washers all helped to lighten the work of the women.

The mail came twice a week from Provo. It was carried on horse back. It went on to Kamas and Coalville. There was no parcel post and very few letters. The Deseret News came once a week. Very little or no mail came through in the winter because of many slides in the canyon and the deep snow.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad came to Heber in September 29, 1899.

Heber was organized a town in 1889. Henry M. Aird was its first President. Thomas H. Giles elected in 1894-96. J. W. Clyde from 1896-98, E. D. Clyde 1898-1900 and Robert Duke from 1900-02.

Heber then became a city and had regular city organizations. The first mayor was J. W. Clyde 1902-04, Joseph A. Rashband 1904-06. During this term water works were installed. J. R. Murdock served 1906-08 during his term we received electric lights. J. E. Clyde 1908-10-11. J. E. Moulton 1911 and because of his death E. D. Clyde was chosen to finish the term. H. R. Hatch 1916-18 John A. Fortis 1918-20. E. D. Duke 1920-24. J. E. McMillin 1924-28. H. Clay Cummings 1928-32-36.

When President Hatch was our representative to the state Legislature, Utah County decided they needed a little more room for grazing stock. They asked that the line be changed from the North Fort to Deer Creek. Summit County found that there was much ore in the Wasatch Mountains so they asked that their line be changed down to the Prove River Bridge. This made it so that all the mines might be on their side. President Hatch objected but to no avail. At the last session he said "If these grants are made, Heber will be like Christ when he was crucified, between two thieves." This speech gained the day and Wasatch lines were not changed.

From 1928 to 1934 H. Clay Cummings was mayor and during these years a 20 ft. wide strip of cement pavement was put down the center of main Street, the water system was remodelled, storage reservoir and spring head house was built. Some pipe line and water wheel were installed at Heber Power Plant so it could be used again. The white way lights was put in and turned on.

L. C. Montgomery was mayor from 1934 to 1938. Federal government Works Programs Administration helped cities and States during this period of the depression. Many cement sidewalks were built and the start of the city sewer system were the highlights of this time.

Harold Stevens was mayor from 1938 to 1942 and the sewer system was extended, the rest of Main Street was hard surfaced and curbed. Library, Grand Stand, Tennis Court and Park at power plant site were built. Ball park lighted, a fire engine and the first patrol car were purchased. Additional springs for the city water system were bargained for.

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Ralph Giles was mayor for 1942 to 1946. These were the World War two years and materials for building and road making were not attainable. But the note for \$10,000 on Springs was payed off and a consistant savings plan of purchase of Government Bonds was carried out to prepare for post war building. An Engineer was hired to draw up plans for improving of streets, zoning, sewer, and water system.

Joseph Hylton was mayor from 1946 to 1948. Five miles of city streets were hard surfaced. A lease on Snake Creek Canyon water was taken and plans for a power plant there was drawn. City zoning went into effect. A Federal loan was arranged for and plans for city airport were drawn and preliminary work for city Memorial Building.

Mayon Hiatt was mayor from 1948 to 1950. Snake Creek power Plant and Memorial buildings were built. The city airport was constructed, and additional city streets were hard surfaced.

*Author
& Date
unknown*

FAMILIES THAT WINTERED IN HEBER 1859

Thomas Rasband

John Crook

James Davis

Hyron Oaks

John Lee

Jane Clotworthy

Elizabeth Carlile

James Carlile

Charles Carroll

John Sessions

Richard Jones

James Laird

R. Broadhead

John Jordan

William Davidson

Alex Sessions

William Sessions

Elisha Thomas

George Carlile

First Child born in Heber Valley-----Timpanogus Davidson

First Child born in Heber City----Sarah Crook

First couple married in Heber----C.C. Thomas and Emeline Sessions

First death in Heber in 1859----child of Sarah Crook

First grown person to die was----John Carlile--Sept. 15, 1859

First homes built in fort----Elias Cox and John Hamilton

The first school teacher----John Young (held in old fort)

First Bishop----Joseph S. Murdock in 1861

First school superintendent----Thomas H. Giles

First goods were sent to Heber by----Carter

First theatres were sponsored by----John Crook & Co.

First choir leader----John W. Crook

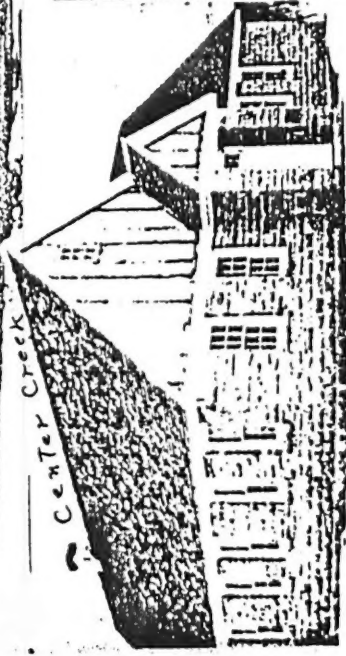
First missionary from Heber in 1865

First miller----Charles Wilkins.

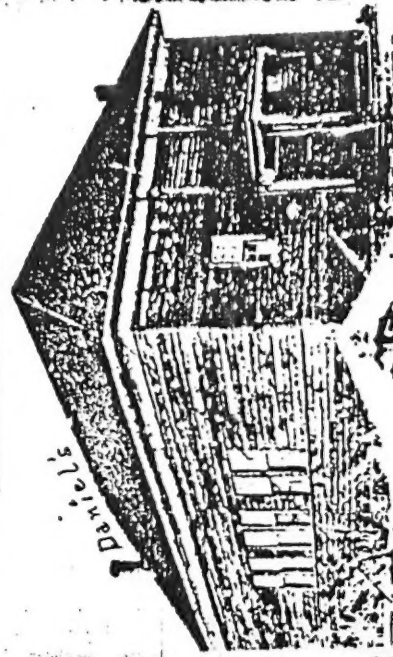
Heber First Ward



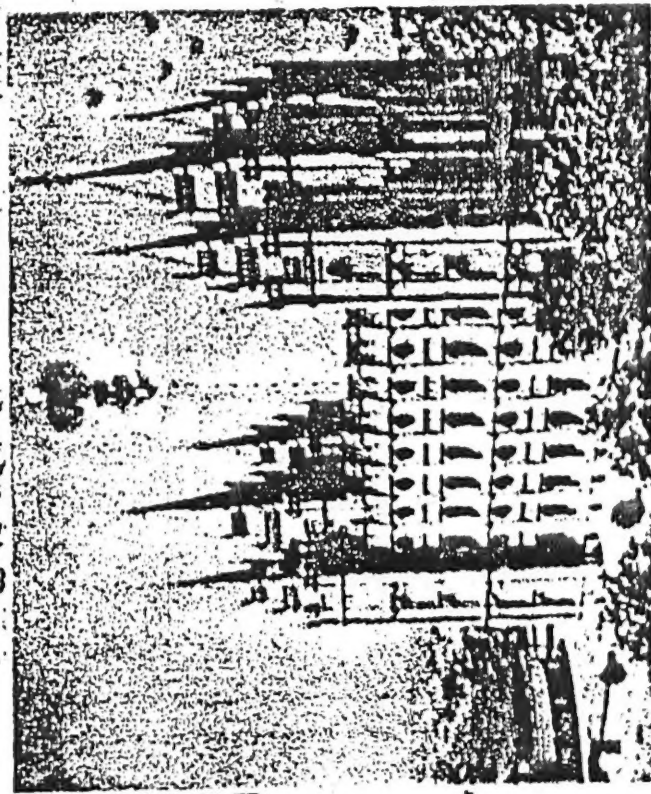
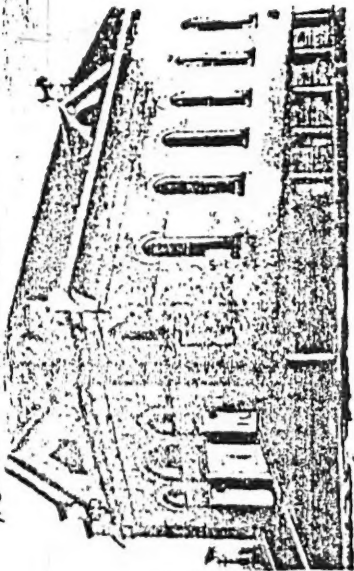
Center Creek



Daniel's

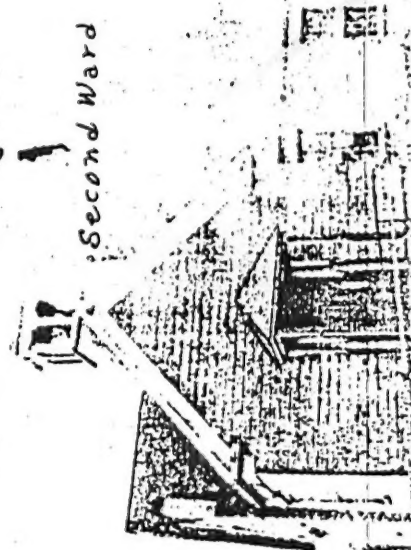


Heber Third Ward

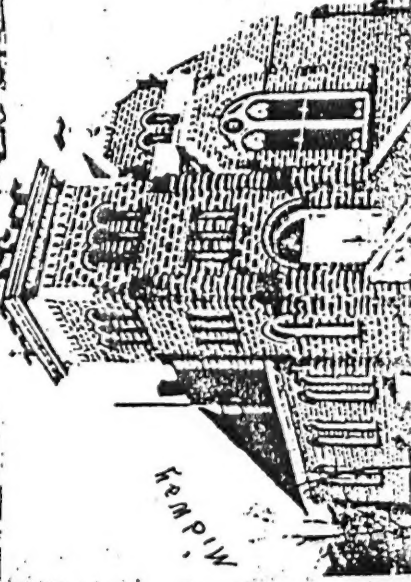


Salt Lake Temple

Second Ward



Midway



Midway

